

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Filed: August 4, 2017

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KARIE N. DUVERNAY, as Natural  
Guardian and Legal Representative  
Of W.R.D., a minor,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* No. 16-582V  
\*  
\*  
\* Special Master Sanders  
\*  
\* Joint Stipulation on Damages; Diphtheria-  
\* Tetanus-acellular-Pertussis (“DTaP”)  
\* Vaccine; Inactivated Polio Virus (“IPV”)  
\* Vaccine; Hepatitis B (“Hep B”) Vaccine;  
\* Haemophilus influenza b (“Hib”) Vaccine;  
\* Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (“PCV”);  
\* Rotavirus Vaccine; Synovitis.

Nancy R. Meyers, Ward Black Law, Greensboro, NC, for Petitioner.

Jennifer L. Reynaud, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

### **DECISION**<sup>1</sup>

On May 16, 2016, Karie N. Duvernay (“Petitioner”), as the natural guardian and legal representative of W.R.D., filed a petition for compensation pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that as a result of the Diphtheria-Tetanus-acellular-Pertussis (“DTaP”), Inactivated Polio Virus (“IPV”), and Hepatitis B (“Hep B”) vaccines administered on February 6, 2014, and the Haemophilus influenza b (“Hib”), Pneumococcal conjugate (“PCV”), and rotavirus vaccines administered on March 11, 2014, W.R.D. suffered from synovitis. *See* Stip. at ¶¶ 1-4, ECF No. 33. Petitioner further alleged that W.R.D. experienced symptoms of this injury for more than six months. *Id.* at ¶ 4.

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<sup>1</sup> This decision shall be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, such material will be deleted from public access.

<sup>2</sup> The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 et seq. (hereinafter “Vaccine Act,” “the Act,” or “the Program”). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

On August 4, 2017, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation to Petitioner. Respondent denies that the DTaP, Hep B, IPV, Hib, PCV, and rotavirus vaccines caused W.R.D.'s alleged synovitis or any other injury. *Id.* at ¶ 6. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that Petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

- a) **A lump sum of \$3,740.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, as guardian/conservator of W.R.D.'s estate. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a), except as set forth in paragraph 8.b; and**
- b) **A lump sum payment of \$2,260.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Karie N. Duvernay, for past unreimbursable medical expenses.**

*Id.* at ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amount for Petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Herbrina D. Sanders  
Herbrina D. Sanders  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

KARIE N. DUVERNAY, as Natural Guardian  
and Legal Representative of W.R.D., a minor.

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES.

Respondent.

No. 16-582V  
Special Master Sanders  
ECF

**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Karie N. DuVernay ("petitioner") filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"), on behalf of her minor child, W.R.D. The petition seeks compensation for W.R.D.'s injuries allegedly related to receipt of the diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis ("DTaP"), inactivated polio virus ("IPV"), hepatitis B ("Hep B"), haemophilus influenza type B ("Hib"), pneumococcal conjugate ("PCV"), and rotavirus vaccines, which vaccines are contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. W.R.D. received the DTaP, IPV, and Hep B vaccines on February 6, 2014, and the Hib, PCV, and rotavirus vaccines on March 11, 2014
3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that W.R.D. suffered synovitis that was caused-in-fact by her vaccinations. Petitioner further alleges that W.R.D. experienced the residual effects of her injuries for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of W.R.D.'s condition.

6. Respondent denies that the DTaP, Hep B, IPV, Hib, PCV, and rotavirus vaccines, alone or in combination, caused W.R.D.'s alleged injuries, any other injury, or her current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of **\$3,740.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, as guardian/conservator of W.R.D.'s estate. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a), except as set forth in paragraph 8.b; and
- b. A lump sum payment of **\$2,260.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Karie N. Duvernay, for past unreimbursable medical expenses.

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings

before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceedings upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees, litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation, will be used solely for the benefit of W.R.D., as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. Petitioners represent that they presently are, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardians/conservators of W.R.D.'s estate under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

14. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and as legal representative of W.R.D., on behalf of herself, W.R.D., and her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, do forever irrevocably and



unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of W.R.D. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from vaccinations administered on or about February 6, 2014, and March 11, 2014, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about May 16, 2016, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 16-582V.

15. If W.R.D. should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

16. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

17. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or

amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

18. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the DTaP, Hep B, IPV, Hib, PCV, and rotavirus vaccines, alone or in combination, caused W.R.D.'s synovitis or any other injury or her current condition.

19. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns, as legal representatives of W.R.D.


END OF STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,

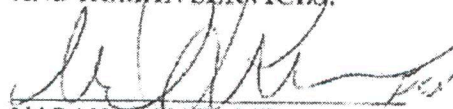
**PETITIONER:**

  
KARIE N. DUVERNAY

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**

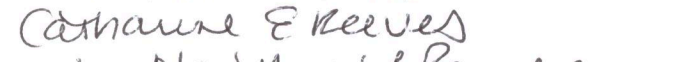
  
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Dated: August 4, 2017

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